Freelance-Manga
HTTP://FREELANCE-MANGA.COM

TRANSLATED BY PATCHES
SCANNED AND EDITED BY STARKS

I pity the fool that doesn't use the zoom-to-actual-size function!

YEARLY
TAKAHASHI RUMIKO
THEATER

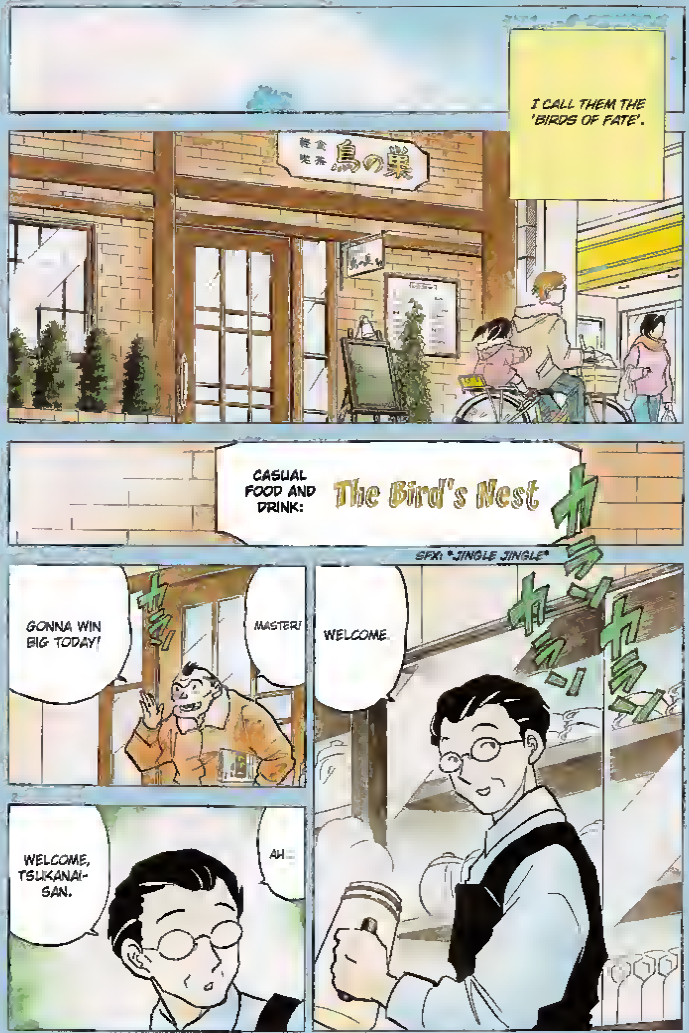
Unmei no Tori
~Birds of Fate~

運命の鳥

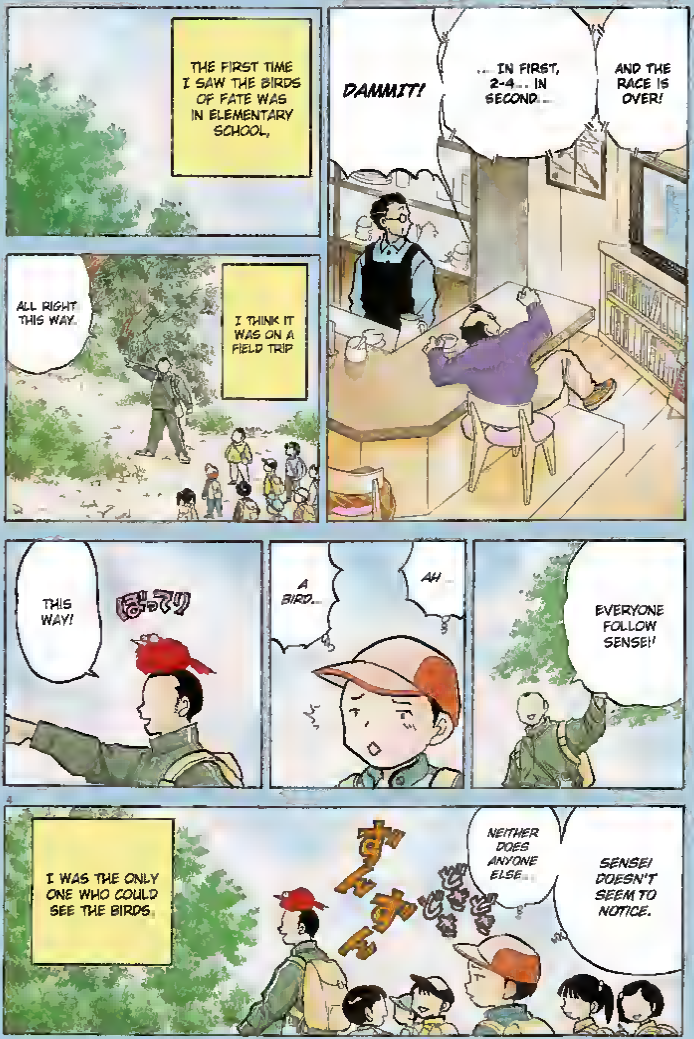
BACK THEN, IF
ONLY I'D HAD A
LITTLE MORE
COURAGE...

高橋留美子

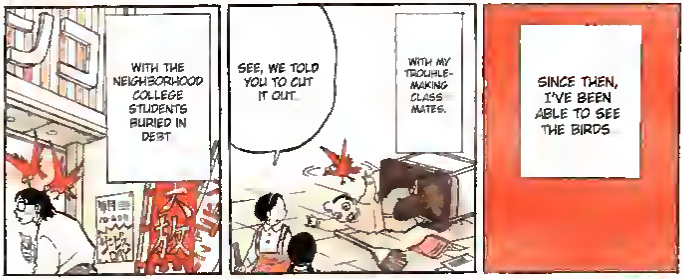
既刊単行本 高橋留美子劇場 ①Pの悲劇 ②専務の犬 ③赤い花束
&副読本「Oの悲劇、Oの喜劇 絶賛発売中!!!!

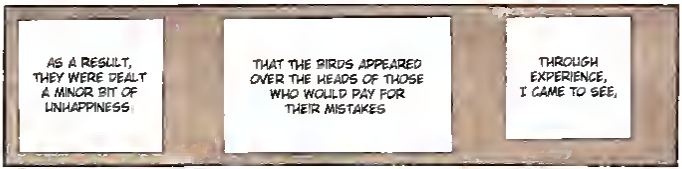

I CALL THEM THE 'BIRDS OF FATE'.
CASUAL FOOD AND DRINK:
The Bird's Nest
SFX: *JINGLE JINGLE*
GONNA WIN BIG TODAY!
MASTER!
WELCOME.
WELCOME, TSUKANAI-SAN.
AH...

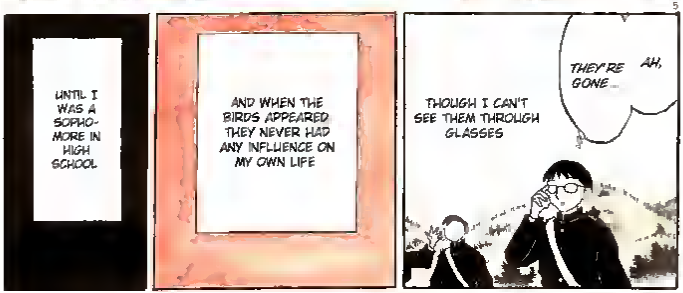
IN THE LEAD IS THE FAVORITE, #1 BIRDBERRY, IN SECOND IS...
AND THEY'RE OFF!
ALL RIGHT, C'MON!
C'MON 1-3!
THAT'S IT!
ALL RIGHT, C'MON 1-3!
TSUKANAI-SAN, TODAY'S NOT YOUR DAY
OH DEAR...

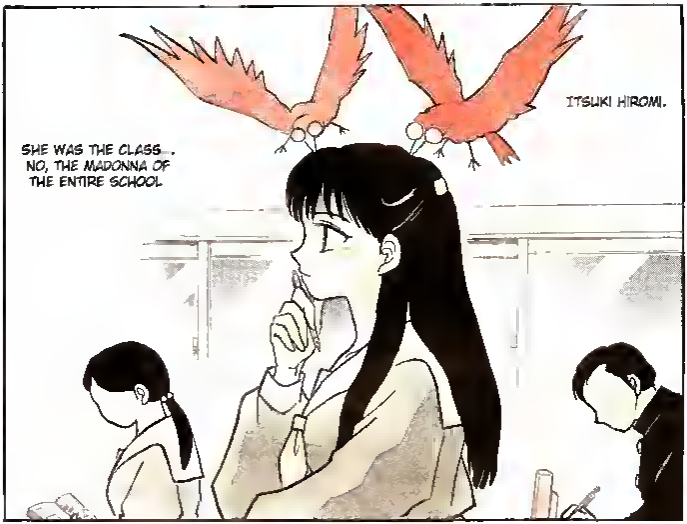

THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE BIRDS OF FATE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
I THINK IT WAS ON A FIELD TRIP
ALL RIGHT THIS WAY.
DAMMIT!
... IN FIRST, 2-4... IN SECOND...
AND THE RACE IS OVER!
THIS WAY!
ぱっ
A BIRD...
AH...
EVERYONE FOLLOW SENSEI!
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SEE THE BIRDS.
ずんずん
NEITHER DOES ANYONE ELSE...
SENSEI DOESN'T SEEM TO NOTICE.

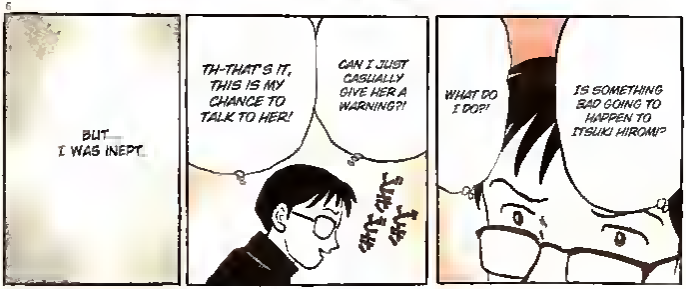
THERE'S NO NEED TO SAY HOW MUCH FLAK SENSEI GOT FROM ALL SIDES...
HUH...?
THEN WE ALL GOT LOST

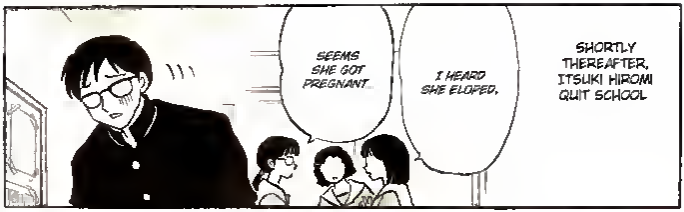

WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD COLLEGE STUDENTS BURIED IN DEBT
SEE, WE TOLD YOU TO CUT IT OUT...
WITH MY TROUBLE-MAKING CLASS MATES.
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE BIRDS

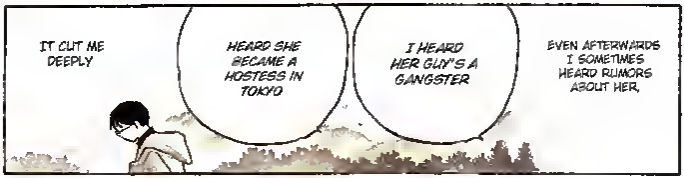

AS A RESULT, THEY WERE DEALT A MINOR BIT OF UNHAPPINESS
THAT THE BIRDS APPEARED OVER THE HEADS OF THOSE WHO WOULD PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES
THROUGH EXPERIENCE, I CAME TO SEE,


UNTIL I WAS A SOPHO-MORE IN HIGH SCHOOL
AND WHEN THE BIRDS APPEARED THEY NEVER HAD ANY INFLUENCE ON MY OWN LIFE
THOUGH I CAN'T SEE THEM THROUGH GLASSES
AH, THEY'RE GONE...




BUT... I WAS INEPT.
TH-THAT'S IT, THIS IS MY CHANCE TO TALK TO HER!
CAN I JUST CASUALLY GIVE HER A WARNING?!
I-I-I-

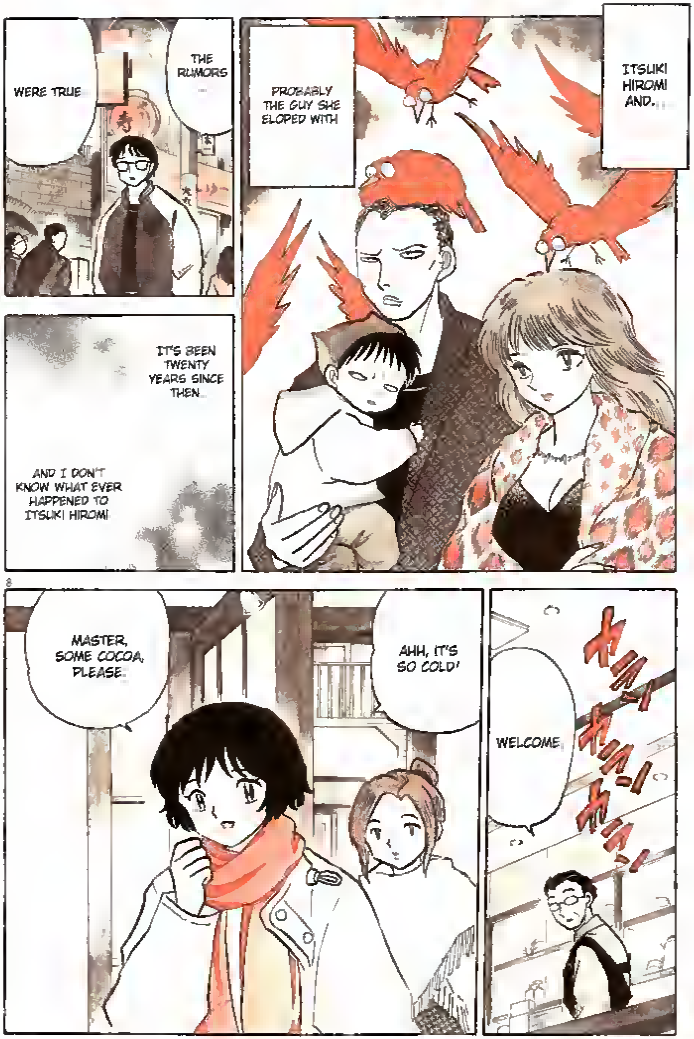

SEEMS SHE GOT PREGNANT.
I HEARD SHE ELOPED.
SHORTLY THEREAFTER, ITSUKI HIROMI QUIT SCHOOL


IT CUT ME DEEPLY
HEARD SHE BECAME A HOSTESS IN TOKYO
I HEARD HER GUY'S A GANGSTER
EVEN AFTERWARDS I SOMETIMES HEARD RUMORS ABOUT HER.

AND BELOW THEM WAS...

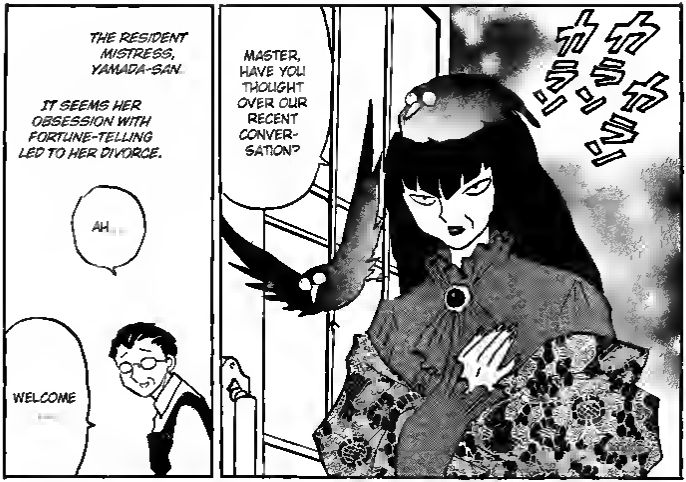
I SAW A HUGE PILLAR OF BIRDS IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT.

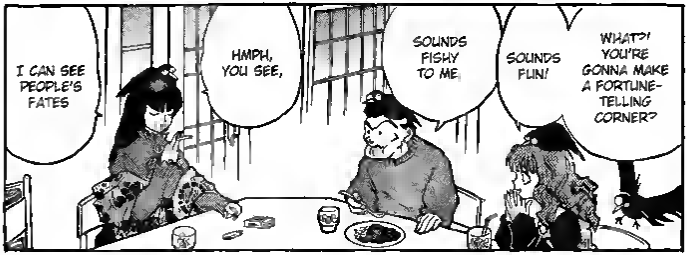
ON THE DAY I TRANSFERRED UNIVERSITIES AND WAS HEADED TO TOKYO.


THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
PROBABLY THE GUY SHE ELOPED WITH
ITSUKI HIROMI AND...
IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE THEN.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO ITSUKI HIROMI
8
MASTER, SOME COCOA, PLEASE.
AHH, IT'S SO COLD!
WELCOME.
カランカラン!
SFX: "JINGLE JINGLE"

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
I'VE SEEN THESE PEOPLE COME IN A LOT LATELY...
I WONDER IF THEY'RE STUDENTS
IT'S PRETTY COZY
WOW, IT FEELS LIKE AN OLD-FASHIONED COFFEE HOUSE
SHE HAS SOME FEATURES SIMILAR TO ITSUKI HIROMI...
9
OH, YOUR BOYFRIEND'S SO COOL
ISN'T HE?
I MET HIM IN THEATER CLUB.
KASA
SO I'M CURIOUS...
TON

HUH?
MASTER, YOU'RE MAKING THOSE EYES AGAIN
IT SEEMS STRANGE, BUT I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED
A MAN HUH
THOUGH I GUESS IT LOOKS THAT WAY
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
A REGULAR CUSTOMER, THE TRANSVESTITE, MAI-SAN THIS PERSON WAS ALSO COVERED IN BIRDS
TO GAZE AT YOUNG WOMEN LIKE YOU'RE UNDRESSING THEM WITH YOUR EYES
IT'S SO LEWD
YOU SAY THAT, BUT AIN'T HE THE HOST OF THAT NEW INN WHO'S MOOCHIN' OFF YA?
HE'S NOT A MOOCH, HE'S MY BOYFRIEND!
I HAVE A REEEEAL BOYFRIEND
NO THANKS
MAI-CHAN, YOU AFTER THE MASTER, TOO?

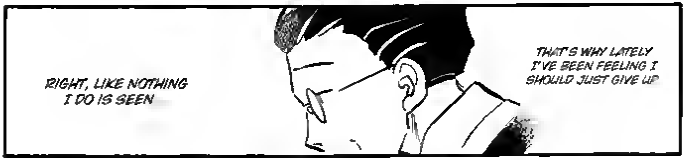

THE RESIDENT MISTRESS, YAMADA-SAN.
IT SEEMS HER OBSESSION WITH FORTUNE-TELLING LED TO HER DIVORCE.
AH...
WELCOME
MASTER, HAVE YOU THOUGHT OVER OUR RECENT CONVERSATION?
カラカラ

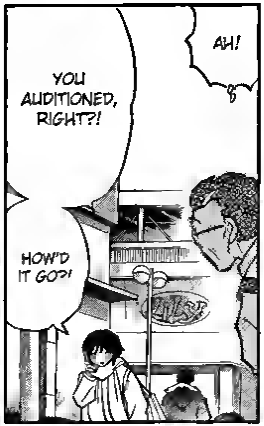

I CAN SEE PEOPLE'S FATES
HMPH, YOU SEE,
SOUNDS FISHY TO ME.
SOUNDS FUN!
WHAT?! YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A FORTUNE-TELLING CORNER?

I'M AFRAID I'M UNABLE...
I'M SORRY YAMADA-SAN.
YOU SHOULD OFFER ME A CORNER OF THIS SHOP.
SO MASTER

THE ABILITY TO SEE PEOPLE'S FATES.

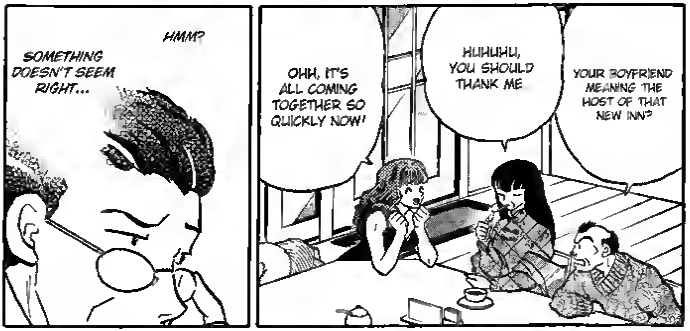
AND WHEN YOU'RE UNABLE TO SAVE THOSE PEOPLE...

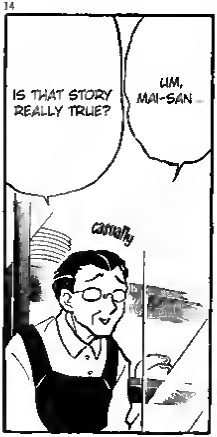




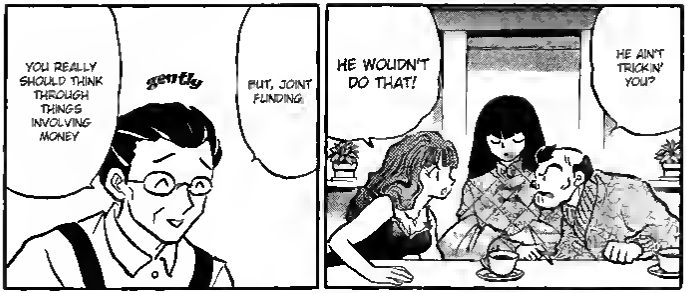
IS THERE SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?
MASTER
RYOUJI-KUN MUST BE...
HER BOYFRIEND?
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE
EH...?
鳥の巣
OH.
HM.
YOU'VE BEEN SIGHIN' A LOT
I KNOW
HUH...?
NOTHING GETS BY ME
...SO YOU BOUGHT ONE
DOESN'T DO A DAMN THING
DON'T DO IT MASTER
IT'S ONLY A THOUSAND YEN
IT IS INFUSED WITH MY WILL.
MASTER, YOU SHOULD PURCHASE THIS GOOD FORTUNE PENDANT

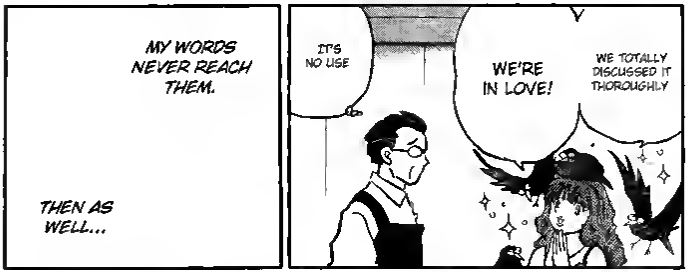
MY BOYFRIEND AND I ARE COMBINING OUR FUNDS TO OPEN A SHOP TOGETHER!
ガラガラ
YAMADA-SAAN! LOOKS LIKE YOUR GOOD LUCK PENDANT IS WORKING!

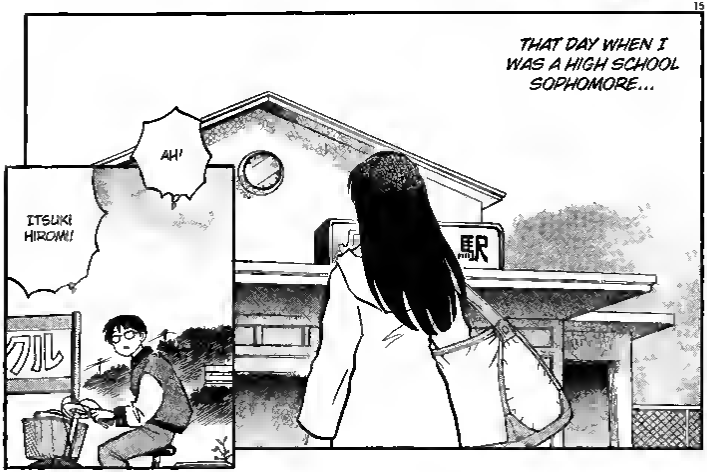

HMM?
SOMETHING DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT...
OHH, IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER SO QUICKLY NOW!
HUHUHU, YOU SHOULD THANK ME
YOUR BOYFRIEND MEANING THE HOST OF THAT NEW INN?

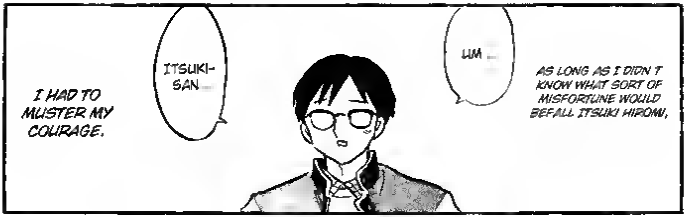

IS THAT STORY REALLY TRUE?
UM, MAI-SAN...
casually

AHH...

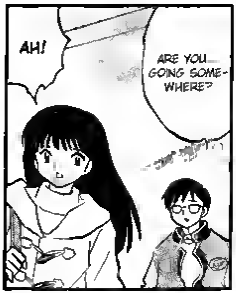

YOU REALLY SHOULD THINK THROUGH THINGS INVOLVING MONEY
gently
BUT, JOINT FUNDING
HE WOULDN'T DO THAT!
HE AIN'T TRICKIN' YOU?

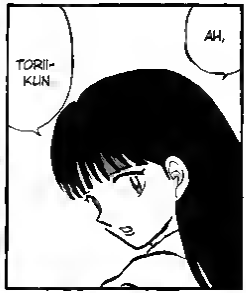

MY WORDS NEVER REACH THEM.
THEN AS WELL...
IT'S NO USE
WE'RE IN LOVE!
WE TOTALLY DISCUSSED IT THOROUGHLY

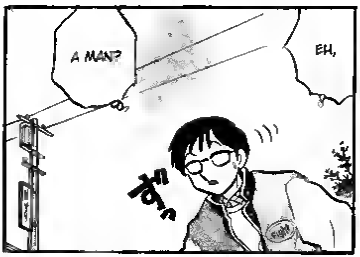

THAT DAY WHEN I WAS A HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE...
AH!
ITSUKI HIROMI!


I HAD TO MUSTER MY COURAGE.
ITSUKI-SAN...
UM...
AS LONG AS I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT SORT OF MISFORTUNE WOULD BEFALL ITSUKI HIROMI,

BYE!
DON'T TELL ANYONE!


AH!
ARE YOU... GOING SOME-WHERE?

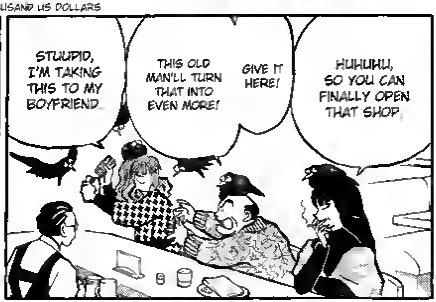

TORII-KUN
AH,


A MAN?
EH,
ガッ

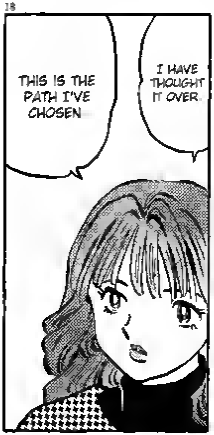
DON'T...
DON'T GO..

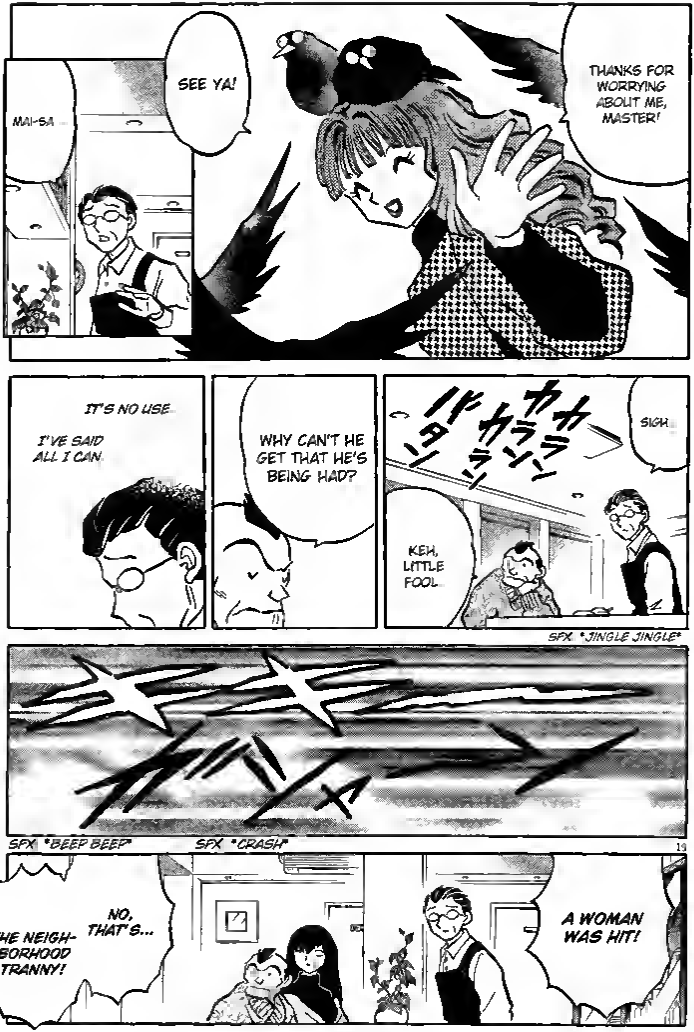
カランコロン
カラン
DON'T GIVE UP, RYOUJI-KUN
I BELIEVE IN YOU
AT THAT TIME, I WAS IN NO POSITION TO GET INVOLVED IN HER LIFE
SIGH...
THERE'S EVEN MORE NOW—
IS SHE REALLY GOING TO BE OKAY?
I'M NOT SURE YET.
YOU GUYS GETTING MARRIED THEN?
RYOUJI-KUN'S GONNA GRADUATE SOON.
17
MASTER, LOOK, LOOK!
I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO.
WILL A MAN BE THE SOURCE OF HER MISFORTUNE AS WELL?

EDITOR'S NOTE: 3 MILLION YEN IS ABOUT 30 THOUSAND US DOLLARS

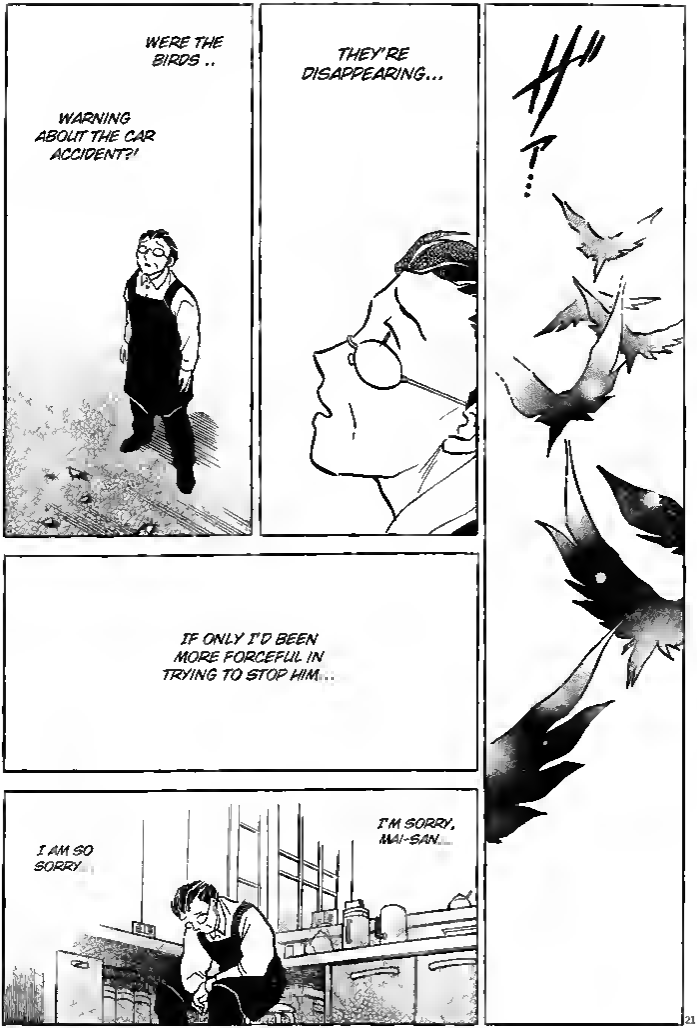

STUUPID, I'M TAKING THIS TO MY BOYFRIEND...
THIS OLD MAN'LL TURN THAT INTO EVEN MORE!
GIVE IT HERE!
HUHUHU, SO YOU CAN FINALLY OPEN THAT SHOP

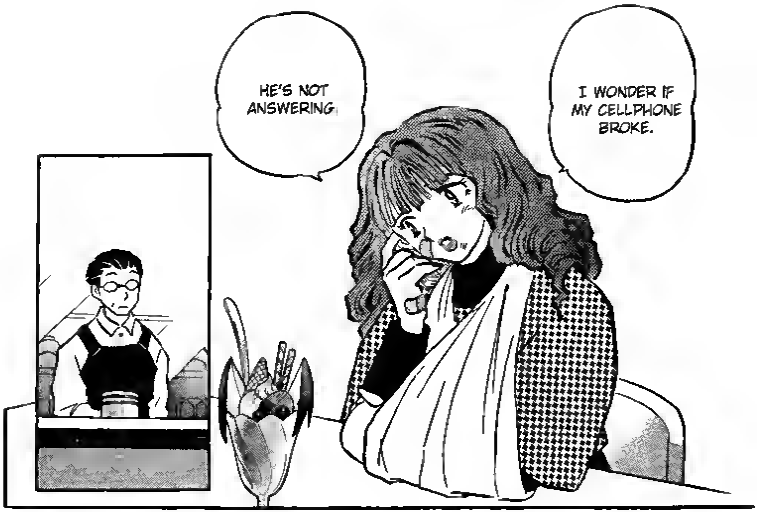
18

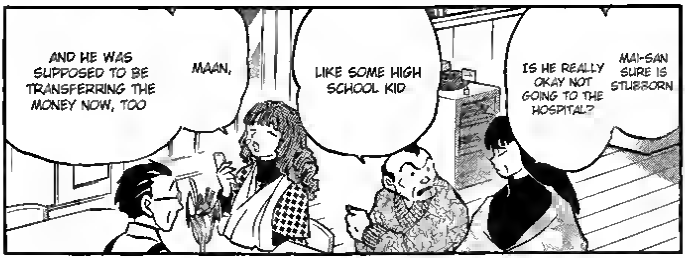



THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME, MASTER!
SEE YA!
MAI-SA...
SIGH...
カランコロン
カランコロン
WHY CAN'T HE GET THAT HE'S BEING HAD?
IT'S NO USE.
I'VE SAID ALL I CAN.
KEH, LITTLE FOOL.
SFX: "JINGLE JINGLE"
SFX: "BEEP BEEP"
SFX: "CRASH"
A WOMAN WAS HIT!
NO, THAT'S...
THE NEIGH-BORHOOD TRANNY!

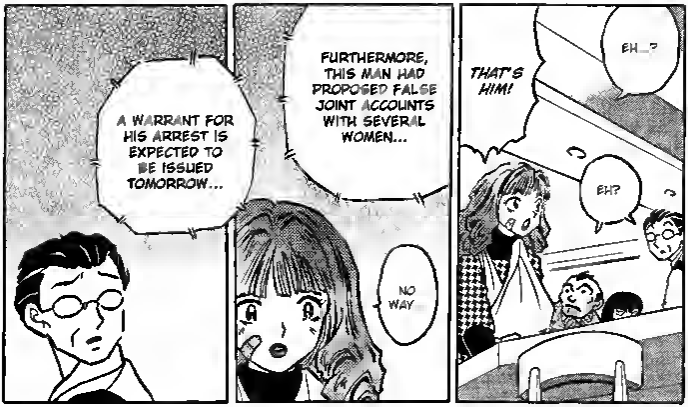
SFX: SIRENS

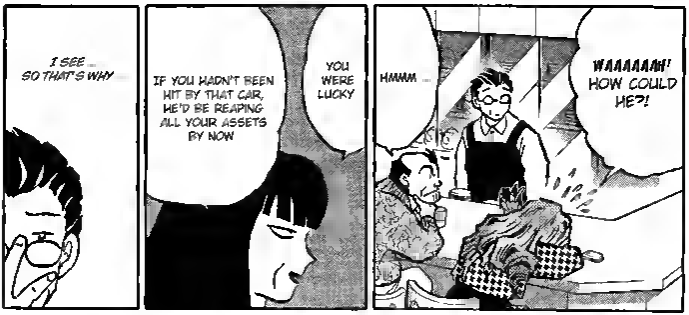

WERE THE BIRDS ..
WARNING ABOUT THE CAR ACCIDENT?!
THEY'RE DISAPPEARING...
IF ONLY I'D BEEN MORE FORCEFUL IN TRYING TO STOP HIM...
I AM SO SORRY...
I'M SORRY, MAI-SAN...

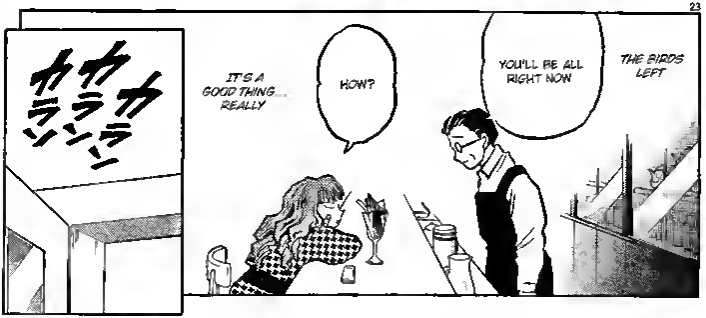

I WONDER IF MY CELLPHONE BROKE.
HE'S NOT ANSWERING.


MAI-SAN SURE IS STUBBORN
IS HE REALLY OKAY NOT GOING TO THE HOSPITAL?
LIKE SOME HIGH SCHOOL KID
MAAN,
AND HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TRANSFERRING THE MONEY NOW, TOO

TODAY AT AROUND 4PM, A HOST WAS STABBED AND SERIOUSLY INJURED BY A WOMAN.
ホスト刺傷事件発生!
THE WOMAN CLAIMED THAT THE MAN HAD BEEN CHEATING HER OUT OF HER MONEY.
TOSHIDA

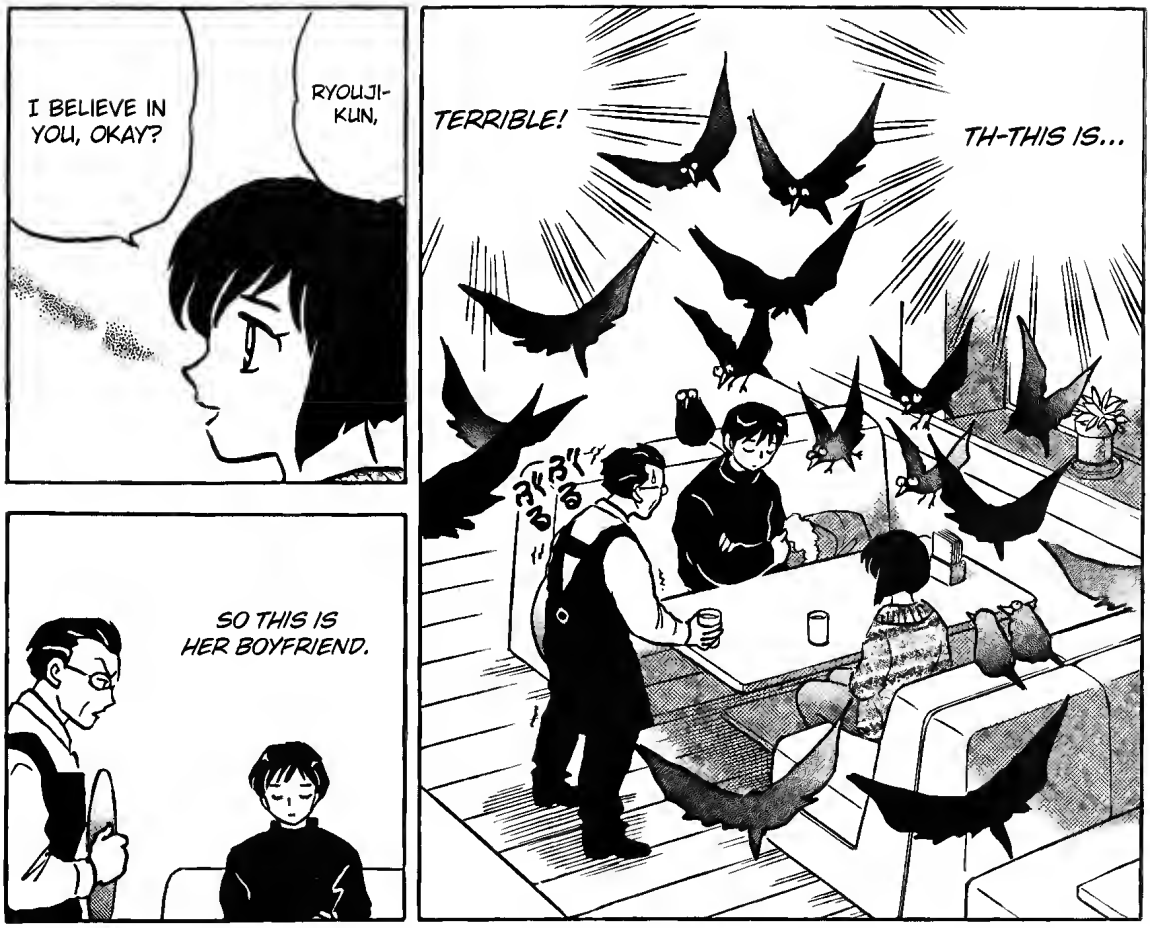

A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED TOMORROW...
FURTHERMORE, THIS MAN HAD PROPOSED FALSE JOINT ACCOUNTS WITH SEVERAL WOMEN...
NO WAY
THAT'S HIM!
EH...?
EH?

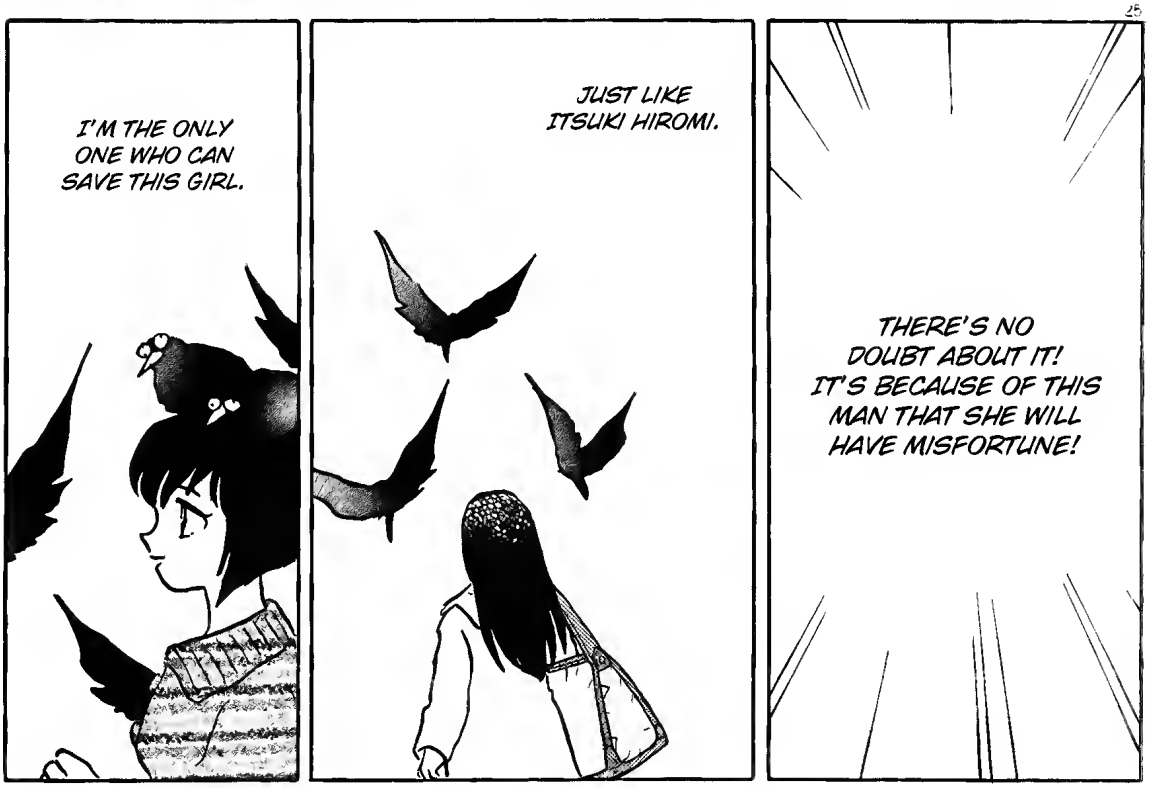

I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HIT BY THAT CAR, HE'D BE REAPING ALL YOUR ASSETS BY NOW
YOU WERE LUCKY
HMMM...
WAAAAAAH! HOW COULD HE?!

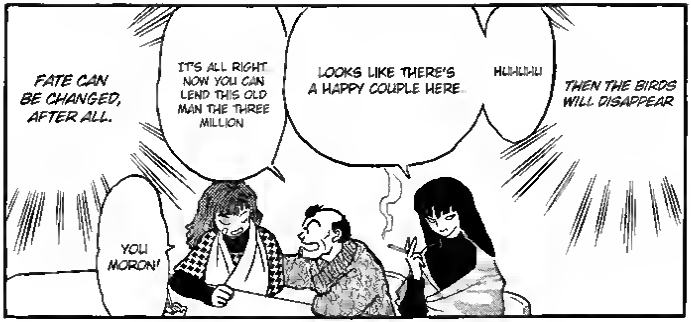


SFX: "JINGLE JINGLE"

EEEEEEEEH?
PHEW, IT'S FREEZING!

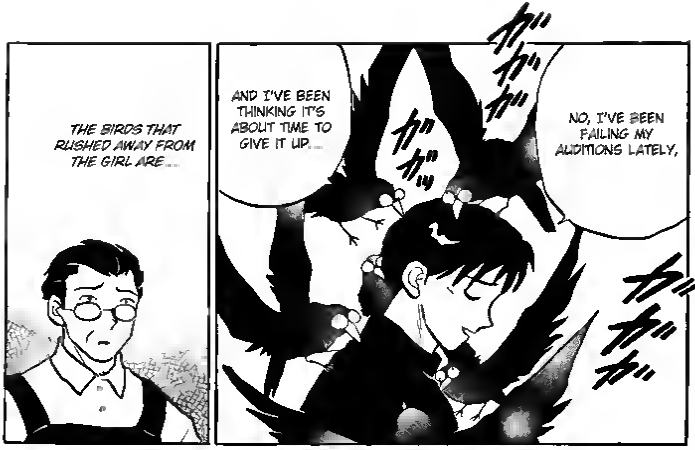

RYOUJI-KUN,
I BELIEVE IN YOU, OKAY?
TERRIBLE!
TH-THIS IS...
SO THIS IS HER BOYFRIEND.


I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THIS GIRL.
JUST LIKE ITSUKI HIROMI.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS MAN THAT SHE WILL HAVE MISFORTUNE!


FATE CAN BE CHANGED, AFTER ALL.
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW YOU CAN LEND THIS OLD MAN THE THREE MILLION
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A HAPPY COUPLE HERE
HUHUHU
THEN THE BIRDS WILL DISAPPEAR
YOU MORON!

THEY NEED TO BREAK UP RIGHT AWAY!
I HAVE TO TELL THEM RIGHT NOW.
ぶる ぶる ぶる
DON'T GIVE UP ..
YOU CAN'T!

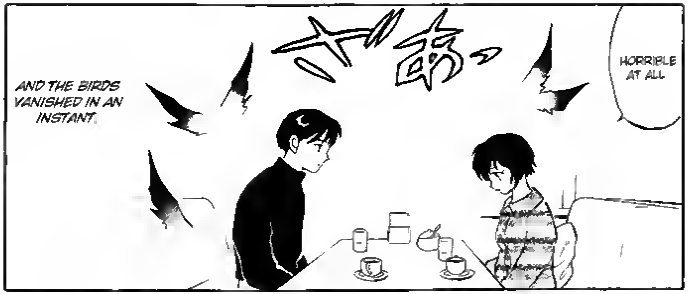
SO THINK OF IT MORE LIKE A BIG CHANCE!
WELL, PLANS CAN CHANGE QUICKLY IN TOUGH TIMES LIKE THESE
I WANT TO GET A REAL JOB...
NO,
IT WOULD BE SO COOL!
RYOUJI-KUN, YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BECOME AN ACTOR
HMM?!

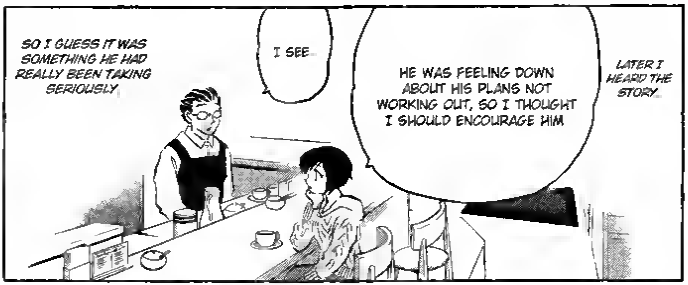

THE BIRDS THAT RUSHED AWAY FROM THE GIRL ARE...
AND I'VE BEEN THINKING IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GIVE IT UP...
NO, I'VE BEEN FAILING MY AUDITIONS LATELY,
ガガガ
ガガッ
ガガガ

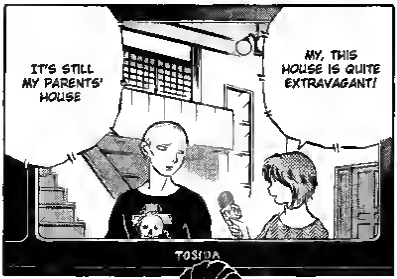
THE MANAGER SEEMED TO WANT TO LEAVE IT IN MY HANDS
AT THE PUB I WAS WORKING AT PART-TIME.
ACTUALLY,
ASSAULTING THE BOY...
SO THAT'S WHY...

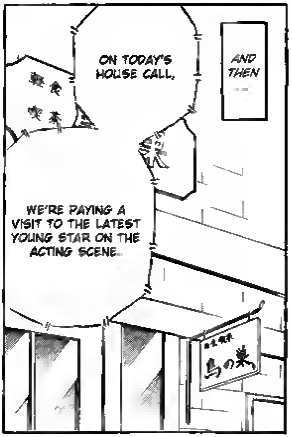
HM... THIS IS...
WELL... I GUESS...
EEHP EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE SUCH A TALENT FOR ACTING?
ガヴァヴァヴァ

OH
YOU WERE LISTENING?
HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE BOY
GOING TO BE GETTING A JOB SOON?
OH
THANK YOU...
I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME WATER
IF I WORK HARD AT THE PUB
I'LL HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR A WEDDING
SO THAT'S WHY...
HEY...
OH...
YES... AND I THINK YOU SHOULD BE THINKING WITH YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND
NO...
IT WOULDN'T BE...
WOULD IT BE SO HORRIBLE IF I WASN'T AN ACTOR?!
EH...?


AND THE BIRDS VANISHED IN AN INSTANT.
HORRIBLE AT ALL

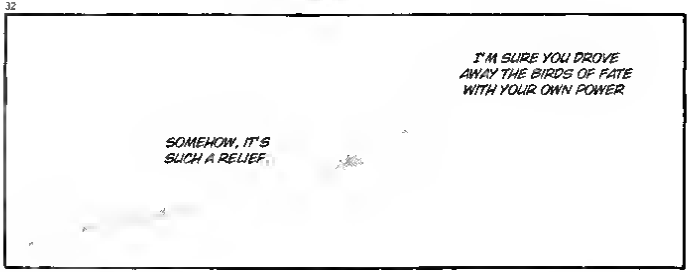

SO I GUESS IT WAS SOMETHING HE HAD REALLY BEEN TAKING SERIOUSLY.
I SEE.
HE WAS FEELING DOWN ABOUT HIS PLANS NOT WORKING OUT, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD ENCOURAGE HIM
LATER I HEARD THE STORY.


IT'S STILL MY PARENTS' HOUSE
MY, THIS HOUSE IS QUITE EXTRAVAGANT!
TOSHIBA


ON TODAY'S HOUSE CALL,
AND THEN ...
WE'RE PAYING A VISIT TO THE LATEST YOUNG STAR ON THE ACTING SCENE.
鳥の巣

I'VE SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
HM?

AND YOUR MOTHER, HIROMI-SAN.
HEY THERE.
YOUR FATHER IS THE NOTORIOUS KING OF VILLAINY IN CINEMA
ITSUKI HIROMI?!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
EH...
THIS CHILD WAS ALREADY IN MY BELLY, AFTER ALL.
IF WE WERE ELOPING, IT SEEMED ONLY NATURAL TO LEAVE MY HOMETOWN
I SEE.
WHEN THINGS FINALLY WORKED OUT, I WAS SO HAPPY.
WHILE MY HUSBAND WAS OUT OF WORK, I WORKED AS A HOSTESS TO SUPPORT US.



-"Birds of Fate" end-